
Poland and the Polish Question. Impressions and Afterthoughts by Ninian Hill
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Russian Life To-day. By RIGHT REV. HERBERT BURY. London: A. R. Mowbray and Company. 1915. Pp. viii, 270.

One interesting effect of the war upon literature has been the rapid increase of books upon Russia, and especially of sympathetic studies of the Russian people, put out for consumption by the English public. Every attempt is being made by English writers to place things Russian in the most favorable light and the resulting books are eagerly read. One of the most successful of these is Bishop Bury's description of Russia as he has found it in his journeys across the Empire, visiting the churches under his care as Bishop of the Anglican Church of North and Central Europe. His position has given him a unique opportunity of seeing the best side of Russian life and his description of peasants and churchmen is very sympathetic. His work brought him in contact with many of the Russian clergy from the Archbishop of Moscow to the parish priest in a little out-of-the-way village of Siberia. From them all he received kindly treatment, and found them always ready to share their service with the English bishop or join with him in the Anglican service. Though the Russian and Anglican churches are not alike, there is a widespread belief among the peasants that they are, which is one of the reasons why the English are so welcome throughout the Empire. Bishop Bury speaks most appreciatively of the Tsar and his personal kindness, describes the government as the most paternal in Europe, insists that Siberian prisons are much to be preferred to English, and even has a good word to say for the much-abused passport system.

Poland and the Polish Question. Impressions and Afterthoughts. By NINIAN HILL. London: George Allen and Unwin. 1915. Pp. 340.

Along with the awakened interest in Russia, the war has aroused a new interest in Poland, from the feeling that in some way the problem of its future will be affected by the outcome of the present struggle. In *Poland and the Polish Question*, half of the book is devoted to an interesting résumé of the history of the country while the other half is given over to a discussion of its present condition and a description of its three capitals, Posen in Germany, Cracow in Austria and Warsaw in Russia, each with its own characteristic features.

In a discussion of the German policy in Posen, emphasis is

laid upon the work of the Ansiedelungs Kommission, founded by Bismarck in 1886, which is forcing the Poles out of the country and has been a potent factor in the recent remarkable growth of Polish towns. In 1904 it secured the passage of a law which virtually prohibits the erection of buildings upon land owned by Poles. Finding land difficult to secure, in 1908 there was passed the "Polish Expropriation or Dispossession Act" for the compulsory purchase of such lands as might be desired. The Kommission has succeeded in breaking up many large estates into small holdings, but the discrimination against the Poles has intensified the race feeling.

As to Russian Poland, the process of Russification has succeeded at least outwardly in the annexed provinces, but has met with a stubborn resistance in the Kingdom of Poland. Even there, however, according to the author, a certain amount of progress has been made, for Poland has at last come to realize that independence is impossible and that her future is bound up with that of Russia. For that reason her objection to the Russification of her educational system seems unwise, for only a knowledge of the Russian language will enable her to rise to a commanding position in the Empire. It is interesting to note that in the second elected Duma the Polish party held the balance of power very much as Ireland rules the English House of Commons, but the result in Russia was not a yielding to Polish demands but a reduction of the Polish representation. In Austria alone do the Poles seem satisfied but here the Ruthenian question promises trouble because of their close alliance by race, language and religion with the Little Russians and because they look upon the Poles much as the Poles regard the Germans and Russians. As to the future of Poland, the author very wisely refrains from prophecy.

The White Man's Burden. A Satirical Forecast. By T. SHIRBY HODGE. Boston: Gorham Press. 1915. Pp. 225.

A satirical forecast of the future based on the conviction that the present is mostly wrong, is this sketch of a Negro Utopia in the heart of Africa. By the invention of perpetual motion the Negroes of America made themselves economically superior to the whites and after attaining race solidarity they withdrew to Africa to develop, without external interference, their own culture and ideals. These included the abolition of government and private property and the attainment of a high standard of comfort for every individual of the race joined to perfect freedom